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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE

PARKING PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Dear Friend,

My office recently initiated legislation to help reduce the fraudulent use of parking placards and license plates for persons with disabilities and to strengthen eligibility standards for obtaining special parking privileges.

I also recently implemented a personnel policy in my office—the first of its kind—that can result in disciplinary action, including termination of any employee who illegally parks in a reserved parking space for persons with disabilities.

When people abuse this program, they are not only breaking the law but also disrespecting the disability community. My goal is to ensure that those who qualify to use these reserved parking spaces have the access they deserve.

Sincerely,

Jesse White

Jesse White
Illinois Secretary of State

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Program Eligibility

Effective Jan. 1, 2002, to qualify for the Secretary of State's Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities, an applicant must have one of the following five specific medical conditions ("Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest" is no longer a qualifying disability, unless it is related to one of these conditions.):

- Cannot walk without the assistance of another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistive device.
- Be restricted by lung disease to such a degree that forced (respiratory) expiratory volume (FEV) in 1 second, when measured by spirometry, is less than 1 liter.
- Must use portable oxygen.
- Have Class III or Class IV cardiac condition according to standards set by the American Heart Association.
- Be severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition.

Parking Privileges

Parking privileges apply only when the authorized holder of a parking placard or disability license plates is present.

Vehicles properly displaying a parking placard or disability license plates are exempt from parking meter fees or time limitations except at meters, signs or other markings with time limitations of 30 minutes or less.

Parking placards do not permit vehicles to park in areas where parking is prohibited. Vehicles also

are prohibited from parking in any manner that creates a traffic hazard.

Parking Placards

There are three types of placards available from the Secretary of State's office.

- **Permanent placards** are blue and issued to persons with a permanent disability. These placards are valid for four years and expire on the last day of the holder's birth month in 2006.
- **Temporary placards** are red and valid for the length of time indicated by the certifying physician, not to exceed six months if issued by the Secretary of State, and 90 days if issued by a local municipality.
- **Organization placards** are green and issued to organizations that transport persons with disabilities. These placards are valid for four years and expire April 30, 2006.

Proper Display of Placards

Because a parking placard is issued to the authorized holder and not to a vehicle, it may be used in any vehicle in which the holder is driving or is a passenger. When parked, the placard must be properly displayed in one of the following locations so it is clearly visible to law enforcement:

- Hanging from the rearview mirror or
- Placed on the dashboard

Failure to properly display a parking placard can result in a ticket.

Remember to remove the placard before the vehicle is in motion to prevent damage or excessive exposure to sun. Also, the placard can obstruct the driver's view if left hanging from the mirror.

Disability License Plates

Persons with permanent disabilities may obtain special license plates for one vehicle titled in their name. A parent or legal guardian may obtain one set of plates if the qualifying person with disabilities does not own a vehicle and must frequently rely on someone else for transportation.

Corporations, school districts, limited liability companies, nursing homes, convalescent homes and special education cooperatives transporting eligible persons may obtain disability license plates as well.

Penalties for Misuse

It is illegal to:

- Park in an access aisle — the vertical lines adjacent to the parking space for persons with disabilities. The access aisle reserves room for persons with disabilities to safely enter and exit their vehicle. You can be ticketed for parking in an access aisle.
- Use a parking placard or disability license plate if the holder is not present. State law requires the authorized placard or license plate holder be present when parking

privileges are used. Abuse could result in a minimum $100 fine.

- Park in a metered space using a placard or license plate if the authorized holder is not present. Abuse can result in a minimum $100 fine and revocation of the placard or plate.

Following are Class A misdemeanors and can result in a fine of up to $1,000 and a 30-day driver's license suspension:

- Providing false information on an application
- Assisting someone in providing false information on an application
- Loaning a placard for someone to park illegally in an accessible space
- Altering a placard

Following are Class 4 felonies and can result in a $10,000 fine and a 30-day driver's license suspension:

- Using a phony placard
- Making a phony placard
- Selling or otherwise distributing a phony placard

Police may confiscate a placard if they believe it is being used illegally. Police officers have clear authority to enforce parking laws on private property, such as at a mall or grocery store.

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Application

- Applications for parking placards or disability license plates are available at your local Secretary of State Driver Services facility, at **www.cyberdriveillinois.com,** or by contacting the Persons with Disabilities License Plate/Placard Unit, 501 S. Second St., Room 541, Springfield, IL 62756.
- A licensed physician must certify on the application that you have one of the five specific qualifying disabilities. You must also include your date of birth, gender and driver's license or state I.D. card number.
- If applying for disability license plates, a copy of the registration card or title is required if the vehicle is registered in the applicant's name. If the vehicle is not registered in the applicant's name, a copy of the title or manufacturer's certificate of origin is required.
- If current plates are valid for more than 90 days, an application for replacement plates and a $14 replacement fee must accompany the application for disability plates. If current plates expire within 90 days, submit a registration application or renewal form and the annual $78 fee.
- Vanity and personalized disability license plates are available. Call (217) 785-6901 for more information.

Submit applications to:

Secretary of State Jesse White
Persons with Disabilities License Plate/Placard Unit
501 S. Second St., Room 541
Springfield, IL 62756
217-782-2709

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